## CLAIMS

**What is Claimed is:**

1. A fiber material, comprising:

a first layer of directionally aligned fibers; and

a second layer of randomly dispersed fibers dispersed over the first layer.

2. A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the first layer includes fibers directionally aligned in a plurality of linear formations.

3. A fiber material according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of linear formations comprises a plurality of crossing linear formations.

4. A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.

5. A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.

6. A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.

7. A fiber material according to claim 1, further comprising a binder material distributed among the fibers within the first and second layers.

8. A fiber material according to claim 7, wherein the fiber material comprises about 5-30% binder material by weight.

9. A fiber material according to claim 7,wherein the binder material comprises an organic compound.

10. A fiber material according to claim 9, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.

11. A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the first layer comprises a thickness of about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber material.

12. A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the fiber material has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test greater than a single layer fiber material having a substantially equal total thickness and comprising only randomly dispersed similar fibers.

13. A fiber material according to claim 12, wherein the fiber material has a total weight less than a total weight of the single layer fiber material.

14. A fiber material, comprising:

a first plurality of fibers horizontally dispersed in one or more predetermined directions;

a second plurality of fibers horizontally dispersed over the first plurality of fibers in random directions; and

binding material binding the first and second pluralities of fibers in their respective directions.

15. A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.

16. A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.

17. A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein each of the fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.

18. A fiber material according to claim 14,wherein the binding material comprises an organic compound.

19. A fiber material according to claim 18, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting op acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.

20. A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the fibers in the first plurality of fibers are horizontally dispersed in linear formations extending in the one or more predetermined directions.

21. A fiber material according to claim 1, wherein the first plurality of fibers comprises a thickness of about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber material.

22. A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the fiber material has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test greater than a single layer fiber material having a substantially equal total thickness and comprising only randomly dispersed similar fibers.

23. A fiber material according to claim 22, wherein the fiber material has a total weight less than a total weight of the single layer fiber material.

24. A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the first and second pluralities of fibers are both horizontally dispersed to a substantially uniform thickness.

25. A fiber material according to claim 14, wherein the binding material comprises about 5% to 30% of a total weight of the fiber material.

26. A method for manufacturing a fiber material, the method comprising:

dispersing a first plurality of fibers horizontally in one or more predetermined directions; and

dispersing a second plurality of fibers horizontally dispersed over the first plurality of fibers in random directions.

27. A method according to claim 26, further comprising dispersing a first plurality of fibers horizontally onto a three-dimensional forming wire comprising a screen and vertical protuberances projecting from the screen, a length of the protuberances determining a thickness of the first plurality of fibers.

28. A method according to claim 26, wherein the length of each of the protuberances ranges from about 0.005 inches to about 0.375 inches.

29. A method according to claim 25, further comprising dispersing the first plurality of fibers horizontally in a plurality of linear formations extending in the one or more predetermined directions.

30. A method according to claim 29, further comprising dispersing the first plurality of fibers horizontally in a plurality of crossing linear formations.

31. A method according to claim 26, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.

32. A method according to claim 26, wherein each fiber of the first and second pluralities of fibers comprises a diameter ranging from about 0.00001 inches to about 0.0300 inches.

33. A method according to claim 26, wherein each fiber of the first and second pluralities of fibers comprises a length ranging from about 0.10 inches to about 1.5 inches.

34. A method according to claim 26, wherein dispersing a first plurality of fibers comprises dispersing a first plurality of fibers comprising a layer having a thickness of about 50% of the total thickness of the fiber material.

35. A method according to claim 26, wherein dispersing first and second pluralities of fibers comprises dispersing first and second pluralities of fibers to form a fiber material having a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test greater than a single layer fiber material having a substantially equal total thickness and comprising only randomly dispersed similar fibers.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the fiber material has a total weight less than a total weight of the single layer fiber material.

37. A method according to claim 26, wherein dispersing further comprises dispersing the first and second pluralities of fibers horizontally to a substantially uniform thickness.

38. A method according to claim 26, further comprising binding the first and second pluralities of fibers in their respective directions with a binding material.

39. A method according to claim 38, wherein binding further comprises binding the first and second pluralities of fibers to form a fiber material having about 5-30% binder material by weight.

40. A method according to claim 38, wherein binding further comprises binding with a binder material comprising an organic compound.

41. A method according to claim 40, wherein the organic compound is selected from the group consisting of acrylic latex, urea-formaldehyde, SBR latex, acrylic emulsions, and mixtures thereof.

42. A roofing shingle, comprising:

a nonwoven fiber mat, comprising:

a first layer of directionally aligned fibers,

a second layer of randomly dispersed fibers dispersed over the first layer, and

binding material binding the first and second layers of fibers in their respective directions; and

a bituminous material formed over and through the nonwoven fiber mat.

43. A roofing shingle according to claim 42, wherein the first layer of the nonwoven fiber mat includes fibers directionally aligned in a plurality of linear formations.

44. A roofing shingle according to claim 43, wherein the plurality of linear formations comprises a plurality of crossing linear formations.

45. A roofing shingle according to claim 42, wherein the fibers are selected from the group consisting of: glass fibers, synthetic polymer fibers, ceramic and inorganic fibers, natural fibers, cellulosic fibers, and mixtures of any or all thereof.

46. A roofing shingle according to claim 42, wherein the nonwoven fiber mat comprises about 5-30% binder material by weight.

47. A roofing shingle according to claim 42, wherein the first layer of the nonwoven fiber mat comprises a thickness of about 50% of the total thickness of the mat.

48. A roofing shingle according to claim 42, wherein the roofing shingle has a tear-strength under the Elmendorf Tear Test greater than a roofing shingle having a single layer nonwoven fiber mat with a substantially equal total thickness and comprising only randomly dispersed similar fibers.

49. A roofing shingle according to claim 48, wherein the roofing shingle has a total weight less than a total weight of the roofing shingle having a single layer nonwoven fiber mat.

50. A roofing shingle according to claim 42, further comprising granules formed over and into an exposed surface of the bituminous material.